

SF 161-1078

DWK/cab

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The October 16, 1942 issue of the "People's World" stated that KATHERINE DUNHAM, not otherwise identified, had signed a petition asking Governor OLSON of California to free [REDACTED]

The March 31, 1944 issue of the "Labor Herald" publication of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) Organizing Committee stated that KATHERINE DUNHAM, not otherwise identified, was to attend an affair on April 2, 1944 for the benefit of the JAERC.

An advertisement in the "People's World" for April 19, 1946, showed the name KATHERINE DUNHAM, not otherwise identified, as a sponsor for the Festus Coleman Defense Committee.

The newspaper morgue of the "San Francisco Chronicle" checked on January 31, 1967, was found to contain no further pertinent information concerning KATHERINE DUNHAM. It is noted that the "San Francisco Examiner" no longer maintains a separate morgue.

Confidential informants having knowledge of some phases of un-American activities, including Communist activities, have no further knowledge of the Appointee.

On January 27, 1967, [REDACTED] San Francisco Symphony, San Francisco Opera House, stated that he had known KATHERINE DUNHAM as an artist since about 1941, but had not known her personally. He knew of nothing adverse concerning her character, loyalty, or associates. He stated he could vouch for her ability as a dancer but knew nothing concerning her academic ability or her political beliefs.

[REDACTED] San Francisco Symphony, San Francisco Opera House, on January 30, 1967, stated he had known KATHERINE DUNHAM since 1941 when he brought her to San Francisco to entertain at an attraction at the Civic Auditorium. During the war, she appeared in San Francisco several times at one of the theaters and at the St. Francis Hotel. [REDACTED] stated he was also acquainted with her husband [REDACTED] and had been invited by them to visit them at their home in Haiti. He stated that the Appointee was a woman of good character, had a master's degree in anthropology, was a very well educated woman, was astute and clever in her work as a dancer. He

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considered her a friend and stated that she kept herself aloof from outside activities to a great extent and concentrated entirely on her work.

He stated that during the war, her name may have been used by certain groups favoring additional civil rights for Negroes, but he did not feel that she had ever favored any organization which did not adhere to American ideals. He stated he felt he could recommend her as a loyal American citizen who associated with respectable people, was not subject to persuasion, and who bears a good reputation.

*I* [redacted] St. Francis Hotel, on January 31, 1967, stated he had known KATHERINE DUNHAM since the early part of World War II. He stated she was an outstanding entertainer and one of the principal devotees of original African dance. He knew of nothing adverse concerning her character. He stated that during the war she associated with individuals whom he believed followed the CP line including [redacted]. He stated that she had been the feature at a party given by the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee during World War II. He stated that during this time the United States and Russia were allies, and many of the groups, such as the JAFRC, used the names of prominent entertainers for their own benefits. He stated that KATHERINE DUNHAM was an intelligent woman and he could not recommend her for a position of trust with the United States Government if that position involved political responsibility. He stated he would recommend her highly for a position with the United States Government if that position involved her artistic ability. He stated he had not known her for the past 20 years and did not know what her political beliefs or activities had been during that time.

#### CREDIT AND POLICE RECORDS

The following investigation was conducted by SE [redacted]

A check of the files of the San Francisco Police Department and the San Francisco Retail Credit Association on January 27, 1967, showed no record for the Appointee.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
San Francisco, California

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No. SF 161-1078

January 31, 1967

Title KATHERINE DUNHAM

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Character SPECIAL INQUIRY

Reference Report of SA [redacted]  
dated and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

|                                   |                            |                                      |   |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| REPORTING OFFICE<br>MEXICO, D. F. | OFFICE OF ORIGIN<br>BUREAU | DATE<br>1/31/67                      | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD<br>1/27/67 - 1/30/67 |
| TITLE OF CASE<br>KATHERINE DUNHAM |                            | REPORT MADE BY<br>SA [REDACTED]      | TYPED BY<br>irg                           |
|                                   |                            | CHARACTER OF CASE<br>SPECIAL INQUIRY |   |

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b7DSYNOPSIS:

No arrest record for KATHERINE DUNHAM located at Mexico, [REDACTED] and troupe danced in Mexico, D. F., during 6/55.

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Bureau airtel to Legat, Mexico dated 1/23/67.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

The indices of the Legat, Mexico contained a reference to KATHERINE DUNHAM, 100-751-8, which has been destroyed. The BUfile for this reference is 100-384851.

[REDACTED] who has worked at the United States Embassy for thirteen years, did not recall

|   |                            |   |          |
|---|----------------------------|---|----------|
| APPROVED<br>NLF/808   | SPECIAL AGENT<br>IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW                |          |
| COPIES MADE:<br>2 - Bureau<br>(1 - Liaison Section)<br>1 - Mexico City (161-14)<br>RECEIVED 2 5 1 |                            | 161-4870-8<br>NOT RECORDED<br>18 FEB 6 1967 |          |
| DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT   |                            | NOTATIONS                                   |          |
| AGENCY  | REQUEST RECD.              | DATE FWD.                                   | HOW FWD. |
|   |                            | 6 1 MAR 27 1967                             |          |
| BY  |                            |   |          |

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/1/83 BY SP4bjl/Hcy

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MEX 161-14

DUNHAM: [REDACTED] who has worked at the United States Embassy for nine years, did not recall DUNHAM.

- B\* -  
COVER PAGE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

January 31, 1967

KATHERINE DUNHAM

This document contains neither  
recommendations nor conclusions of  
the FBI. It is the property of  
the FBI and is loaned to your agency;  
it and its contents are not to be  
distributed outside your agency.

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The June 18, 1955 issue of EL UNIVERSAL, a Mexico, D. F., Spanish-language daily newspaper, carried an announcement of ballet performances to be given by KATHERINE DUNHAM and her troupe at the National Auditorium on June 18 and 19, 1955.

On January 30, 1967, [redacted] Cultural Attache's Office, United States Embassy, Mexico, D. F., advised that she has been employed by the United States Embassy since 1949. She said she is not personally acquainted with KATHERINE DUNHAM, but recalled seeing her dance with her troupe in Mexico, D. F., during 1955. She recalled that after attending one of her performances, she attended a function held by the Embassy in honor of KATHERINE DUNHAM and her troupe. To her knowledge, no incident occurred while the troupe was in Mexico, D. F., which would reflect upon KATHERINE DUNHAM.

[redacted] did not recall that KATHERINE DUNHAM had made a movie in Mexico during 1947, but believes that she has danced in Mexico City on occasions other than the performances in 1955.

The records of the Identification Sections of the Metropolitan Police of the Federal District and the Judicial Police of the Federal District and Territories, both Mexico City, disclosed no information identifiable with KATHERINE DUNHAM.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/7/00 BY SP-1/BJC/Hcg

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 1 1967

TELETYPE

FBI BALTO

457PM URGENT 2/1/67 GHR

TO DIRECTOR, WFO

FROM BALTIMORE (161-2309) (RUC)

|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Mr. Tolson   | _____ |
| Mr. DeLoach  | _____ |
| Mr. Mohr     | _____ |
| Mr. Wick     | _____ |
| Mr. Casper   | _____ |
| Mr. Callahan | _____ |
| Mr. Conrad   | _____ |
| Mr. Felt     | _____ |
| Mr. Gale     | _____ |
| Mr. Rosen    | _____ |
| Mr. Sullivan | _____ |
| Mr. Tavel    | _____ |
| Mr. Trotter  | _____ |
| Tele. Room   | _____ |
| Miss Holmes  | _____ |
| Miss Gandy   | _____ |

0  
KATHERINE DUNHAM, AKA, SPI, BUDED: FEBRUARY TWO,  
SIXTY SEVEN.

MR. TOLSON  
ROOM 1246

RE BUREAU AIRTEL JANUARY TWENTY SEVEN, SIXTY SEVEN.

DEFENSE CENTRAL INDEX OF INVESTIGATIONS, DCII,

CHECKED THIS DATE FOR IC [ ] REVEALS INFORMATION

POSSIBLY IDENTICAL WITH APPOINTEE LOCATED NAVAL

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE FILE NO ONE EIGHT NINE ONE FOUR

ZERO ONE.

WFO HANDLE.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/1/00 BY SP-4 bja/Heg Cp

END

DLH

FBI WASH DC\*

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161-4870-9

NOT RECORDED

25 MAR 13 1967

GP

1cc destroyed  
WNB/may  
301

61 MAR 27 1967  
TWO COPIES WFO

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

|  |                            |   |                                |
|--|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| REPORTING OFFICE<br>SPRINGFIELD  | OFFICE OF ORIGIN<br>BUREAU | DATE<br>2/1/67  | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD<br>2/1/67 |
| TITLE OF CASE<br>0<br>KATHERINE DUNHAM, Aka<br>Mrs. John Thomas Pratt,<br>Kay Dunn |                            | REPORT MADE BY<br>SA <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; vertical-align: middle;"></span> | TYPED BY<br>dlh                |
|  |                            | CHARACTER OF CASE<br>SPECIAL INQUIRY  |                                |

b6  
b7CREFERENCE:

New York teletype to Chicago 1/27/67.  
Chicago telephone call to Springfield 1/31/67.

- RUC -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/1/00 BY SP4/lyl/eg/CP

Case has been: Pending over one year ☐ Yes ☐ No; Pending prosecution over six months ☐ Yes ☐ No

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

1-Bureau  
1-Springfield (161-318)

161-4870-10

NOT RECORDED

12 FEB 3 1967

## Dissemination Record of Attached Report

|               |  |  |  |  |
|---------------|--|--|--|--|
| Agency        |  |  |  |  |
| Request Recd. |  |  |  |  |
| Date Fwd.     |  |  |  |  |
| How Fwd.      |  |  |  |  |
| By            |  |  |  |  |

Notations

Spec. Ind.

- A\* -  
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of:

SA [REDACTED]

Office:

Springfield

Date:

2/1/67

Field Office File #:

SI 161-318

Bureau File #:

Title:

KATHERINE DUNHAM

Character:

SPECIAL INQUIRY

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Synopsis:

Applicant employed as special instructor Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois, 9/64 to 6/65. Nothing derogatory or unfavorable developed. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] negative regarding DUNHAM. Arrest checks negative.

- RUC -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/1/00 BY SP-46 jlt/eg

SI 161-318

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DETAILS:

AT CARBONDALE, ILLINOIS

[redacted]  
Southern Illinois University, advised that KATHERINE DUNHAM was employed as a distinguished visiting instructor at Southern Illinois University from September, 1964, to June, 1965, working in the theatre and assisting in productions of operas and ballets.

[redacted] stated that he was personally acquainted with applicant who is married [redacted]

[redacted] stated that while in Carbondale, Illinois, the applicant resided at the [redacted]

[redacted] stated that he knows of nothing in the background of the applicant which would tend to reflect unfavorably upon her; however, he pointed out that he was only associated with the applicant for a brief period of time while she was at Southern Illinois University.

[redacted]  
Southern Illinois University, advised that her records also disclose that KATHERINE DUNHAM was a visiting professor at Southern Illinois University from September, 1964, to June, 1965. [redacted] indicated that her records disclose DUNHAM was born in Chicago, Illinois, date unknown, and attended high school at Joliet, Illinois, and the University of Chicago. DUNHAM is the owner of the Katherine Dunham School of Culture and Arts, Incorporated, New York, New York.

[redacted] advised that [redacted]

[redacted] further added that there is nothing in the files of Southern Illinois University which tends to reflect unfavorably upon the applicant [redacted]

[redacted] Jackson County Credit Bureau, advised that her records contain information indicating that [redacted]

[redacted] stated further that her records contain no information concerning applicant.

[redacted] Carbondale Police Department, advised his records contain no arrest information of any type pertaining to applicant [redacted]

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SI 161-318

AT MURPHYSBORO, ILLINOIS

[REDACTED] Jackson County stated  
his records were negative pertaining to applicant [REDACTED]

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

|  |                                   |  |  |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| REPORTING OFFICE<br><b>DETROIT</b>   | OFFICE OF ORIGIN<br><b>BUREAU</b> | DATE<br><b>2/1/67</b>  | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD<br><b>1/30 - 2/1/67</b> |
| TITLE OF CASE<br><b>0</b><br><b>KATHERINE DUNHAM, aka</b><br><b>Katherine Pratt</b><br><b>Mrs. John Thomas Pratt</b> |                                   | REPORT MADE BY<br><b>SA</b> <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; vertical-align: middle;"></span> | TYPED BY<br><b>GMC</b>                       |
|  |                                   | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><br><b>SPI</b>  |  |

REFERENCE: Bureau airtel to WFO, 1/27/67.

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- RUC -

ADMINISTRATIVE

No indication in Detroit files that  personally acquainted with DUNHAM.

Case has been: Pending over one year ☐ Yes ☐ No; Pending prosecution over six months ☐ Yes ☐ No

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

1 - Bureau (AMSD)

1 - Detroit (161-673)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/7/00 BY SP-4 BJA/teg

NOT RECORDED

12 FEB 3 1967

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Notations

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| Agency        |  |  |  |  |
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| How Fwd.      |  |  |  |  |
| By            |  |  |  |  |

61 MAR 27 1967

*[Handwritten signature]*  
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DE 161-673

Review of "Who's Who" determined no leads for  
Detroit. No lead material contained in Detroit files.

INFORMANT

Identify of Source

[Redacted]

Location

100-2507-980

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA [REDACTED]  
Date: February 1, 1967

Office: Detroit, Michigan

Field Office File #: 161-673

Bureau File #:

Title: KATHERINE DUNHAM

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Character: SPECIAL INQUIRY

Synopsis: Party given for one KATHRYN DUNHAM, Detroit, 1945,  
sponsored by American Youth for Democracy and National  
Negro Congress.

- RUC -

DETAILS:MISCELLANEOUS

On February 15, 1945, [REDACTED] advised that on that date a party sponsored by the "Four Freedoms Club" of the American Youth for Democracy and the National Negro Congress was given for KATHRYN DUNHAM at the ballroom of the Civic Center at 114 Erskine, Detroit. About 150 people attended.

The American Youth for Democracy and the National Negro Congress have been designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/1/00 BY [REDACTED]

- 1\* -



*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**Detroit, Michigan  
February 1, 1967**

**Title KATHERINE DUNHAM**

b6  
b7C

**Character SPECIAL INQUIRY**

**Reference Report of SA [REDACTED]  
Detroit, dated and captioned as above.**

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

|   |                                   |   |  |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| REPORTING OFFICE<br><b>SEATTLE</b>  | OFFICE OF ORIGIN<br><b>BUREAU</b> | DATE<br><b>2/1/67</b>                       | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD<br><b>1/30 - 2/1/67</b> |
| TITLE OF CASE<br><b>KATHERINE DUNHAM, aka<br/>Katherine Pratt,<br/>Mrs. John Thomas Pratt</b> |                                   | REPORT MADE BY<br><b>SA [REDACTED]</b>      | TYPED BY<br><b>ams</b>                       |
|   |                                   | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><b>SPECIAL INQUIRY</b> | <b>b6<br/>b7C</b>                            |

REFERENCE: Bureau airtel to Seattle, 1/27/67.

-RUC-

ADMINISTRATIVE:

This report is being classified ~~confidential~~ inasmuch as disclosure of information contained herein might reasonably result in the identification of confidential informants and might adversely affect the national security.

INFORMANTS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/1/00 BY SP-4 bjd/leg

Case has been: Pending over one year ☒ Yes ☐ No; Pending prosecution over six months ☐ Yes ☐ No

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

1- Bureau REG.  
1- Seattle (161-328)

**161-4870-12**

**NOT RECORDED**

**18 FEB. 3 1967**

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Notations

|               |  |  |  |  |
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| Agency        |  |  |  |  |
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| How Fwd.      |  |  |  |  |
| By            |  |  |  |  |

**61 MAR 27 1967**

SE 161-328

Identity of Source

[REDACTED]  
(per request)  
[REDACTED]

Location

Characterization of  
[REDACTED]

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-B\*-

COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Copy to:

Report of: SA [REDACTED]  
Date: February 1, 1967

Office: SEATTLE

Field Office File #: 161-328

Bureau File #:

Title: KATHERINE DUNHAM

b6  
b7C

Character: SPECIAL INQUIRY

Synopsis:

DECLASSIFIED BY *SP-4 bja/Hcg*  
ON *2/7/00*

Appointee has appeared in Seattle, Washington, in conjunction with cross-country tour of her dance group. On May 4, 1945, appointee spoke at a party to raise funds for the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee. On January 28, 1948, appointee spoke to a group of friends of the Spanish Refugee Appeal of the Joint Anti-Facist Refugee Committee.

-RUC-

DETAILS:

Credit and arrest checks at Seattle, Washington, were conducted by Investigative Clerk [REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~Group 1~~

~~Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification~~

CREDIT AND ARREST

On February 1, 1967, a review of the records of the Seattle Credit Bureau, Seattle, Washington, reflected no records identifiable with the appointee.

On February 1, 1967, a review of the records of the King County Sheriff's Office and the Seattle Police Department, both Seattle, Washington, reflected no records identifiable with the appointee or her husband.

MISCELLANEOUS

On January 30, 1967, a review of Who's Who In America, Volume 34, 1966-67, Two Years, Marquis-Who's Who Incorporated, Chicago, Illinois, reflected that the appointee had toured the United States with the "Tropical Revue" in 1943-44 and toured cross-country with "Bal Negre and New Tropical Revue" from January through April, 1948.

On May 5, 1945, [redacted] who is currently unavailable for comment, stated that the International Students House, of the University of Washington, gave a fund-raising party in honor of KATHERINE DUNHAM, prominent leader of a well-known Negro dance troupe appearing in Seattle, Washington, and that the above party was given in a private home in Seattle, Washington. [redacted] further stated that the above party was regarded as successful from a monetary standpoint, grossing over \$500.00.

On May 5, 1945, an article appearing in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Seattle, Washington, captioned "KATHERINE DUNHAM Aids Relief Drive" reflected that KATHERINE DUNHAM, noted dancer, spoke last night at a party to raise funds for the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee's Relief Program at a home in Seattle, Washington.

The Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee has been cited by the United States Attorney General under provisions of Executive Order 10450.

In the January 28, 1948, edition of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Seattle, Washington, an article appeared captioned "Miss DUNHAM Pleads For Spanish Relief", reflecting that Miss KATHERINE DUNHAM, described as a nationally famous dancer and appearing this week at the Metropolitan Theater,

SE 161-328

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Seattle, Washington, spoke to a "group of friends of the Spanish Refugee Appeal of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee at a benefit supper at the home of [REDACTED]"

The article went on to say that DUNHAM told the "pathetic life story of the little Spanish refugee girl she adopted a few years ago in Mexico City and spoke of the Spanish refugees who have now adapted themselves in Mexico. She also spoke of the tremendous program being carried out all over the United States to help Spanish refugees who went to France in 1939 when there was for them no repatriation, no Red Cross, and no U.N.R.R.A."

On January 31, 1967, a review of the Seattle City Directory, 1948-49, reflects that a [REDACTED] was then listed as residing at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] a former member and paid official of the Northwest District of the Communist Party from 1943 to 1953 who formerly furnished reliable information to the FBI advised on February 28, 1949, that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Seattle, Washington  
February 1, 1967

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Title KATHERINE DUNHAM

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b7C

Character SPECIAL INQUIRY

Reference Report of SA [redacted]  
dated and captioned as above  
at Seattle, Washington.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

|  |                                   |  |   |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| REPORTING OFFICE<br><b>CHICAGO</b>   | OFFICE OF ORIGIN<br><b>BUREAU</b> | DATE<br><b>2/1/67</b>  | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD<br><b>1/25-31/67</b> |
| TITLE OF CASE<br><br><b>KATHERINE DUNHAM, aka<br/>Mrs. John Thomas Pratt,<br/>Kay Dunn</b> |                                   | REPORT MADE BY<br><b>SA [REDACTED]</b>   | TYPED BY<br><b>mar</b>                    |
|  |                                   | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><br><b>SPI ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED<br/>HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT<br/>WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.</b> |   |

REFERENCES: Bureau airtel to WFO, 1/23/67.  
New York teletypes to Bureau, 1/27/67.  
Chicago airtel to Springfield, 1/31/67.

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INFORMANTS

Current informants possessing some knowledge of Communist activities in the Chicago area prior to 1950 were contacted as follows:

- A -  
COVER PAGE

2/7/00  
CLASSIFIED BY *NLS/bja 60267AMS*  
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 1

Case has been: Pending over one year ☐ Yes ☐ No; Pending prosecution over six months ☐ Yes ☐ No

APPROVED *mjg/rps*SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

① - Bureau (AMSD)

1 - Chicago (161-1413)

|                     |  |               |
|---------------------|--|---------------|
| <b>161-4870-13</b>  |  | <b>REC-25</b> |
| <b>NOT RECORDED</b> |  |               |
| <b>3 FEB 3 1967</b> |  |               |
|                     |  |               |
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## Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Notations

|               |                       |  |  |  |
|---------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| Agency        |                       |  |  |  |
| Request Recd. |                       |  |  |  |
| Date Fwd.     |                       |  |  |  |
| How Fwd.      | <b>61 MAR 27 1967</b> |  |  |  |
| By            |                       |  |  |  |

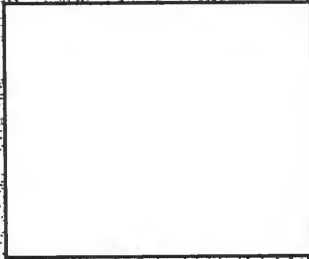
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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CG 161-1413

INFORMANT

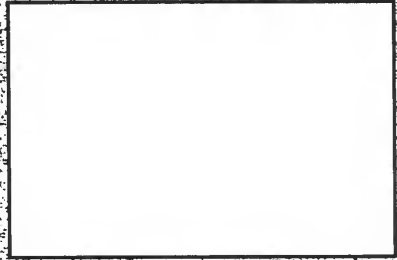


DATE CONTACTED

1/25/67  
1/31/67  
1/26/67  
1/25/67  
1/31/67  
2/1/67  
2/1/67

CONTACTED BY

SA  
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SA  
SA  
SA  
SA



CHARACTERIZATION OF ORGANIZATION

Organization

Progressive Party

Source

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONb6  
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## Copy to:

Report of:

SA [REDACTED]

Office:

CHICAGO

Date:

2/1/67

Field Office File #: 161-1413

Bureau File #:

Title:

KATHERINE DUNHAM

Character:

SPECIAL INQUIRY

Synopsis:

Birth not verified. Education at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University verified. Appointee received a PHB Degree. No adverse credit information. Arrest checks negative. Informant advised one KATHERINE DUNHAM was listed in telephone directories of the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. Informant advised one CATHERINE DUNHAM was associated with the Abraham Lincoln School. Newspaper articles reflect appointee purchased a ticket to a rally for HENRY A. WALLACE from the chairman of the Progressive Party and that her cast was to provide entertainment for the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee Benefit. Informants possessing some knowledge of Communist activities in the Chicago area prior to 1950 advised they have no knowledge of the appointee.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/7/00 BY SP4BJH/cg

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DETAILS

Birth

On January 30, 1967, Investigative Clerk [redacted] checked the records of the Bureau of Vital Statistics, Cook County, Illinois, and was unable to locate any record identifiable with the appointee.

It is noted that the State of Illinois did not require the filing of birth records until 1915. No record was located identifiable with the appointee in the main index from 1880 to 1933, or in the delayed series index from 1915 to date.

Education

University of Chicago  
5801 South Ellis Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

On January 26, 1967, [redacted] registrar's office, advised that her records reflect KATHERINE MARY DUNHAM, born June 22, 1909, attended that university from January 1929, to August, 1936, and received a PHB Degree in August, 1936. Her records reflect that this individual attended Northwestern University from 1934 to 1936, as an anthropology major. She said she has no other information concerning the appointee.

Northwestern University  
Evanston, Illinois

On January 31, 1967, [redacted] Central Records, Northwestern University, Evanston Campus, advised SA [redacted] that KATHERINE DUNHAM, born June 22, 1909, at Chicago, entered that university as an unclassified student in February, 1935. She previously graduated from Joliet High School, Joliet, Illinois, and resided at 408 South Joliet Street, Joliet, Illinois.

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The records reflect her parents as ALBERT MILBARD DUNHAM, born in Memphis, Tennessee, and ANNETTE DUNHAM, born in Winnipeg, Canada. Records indicate that the appointee was the author of a book, "Touch of Innocence". She received 11 credit hours at Northwestern University and her transcript was sent to the University of Chicago in July, 1936.

#### Employment

Chicago Opera Company  
Chicago, Illinois

It is noted that the Chicago Opera Company is no longer in existence.

On January 26, 1967, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Lyric Opera of Chicago, 20 North Wacker Drive, advised the Chicago Opera Company ceased to exist in about 1946, and that several opera companies have been in business since that time but that the Lyric Opera is the only one currently operating. He advised that he has no knowledge of the Federal Theater or the City Theater Writers Project. He stated that he does not believe any records would be in existence from any of appointee's performances in Chicago, however, she is an internationally well-known performer and that the most likely source of any information regarding her would be newspaper files. ✓

Cube Theater  
Chicago, Illinois

It is noted that current Chicago telephone directories have no listing identifiable with the Cube Theater.

#### Credit and Arrest

On January 30, 1967, [REDACTED] Chicago Credit Bureau Incorporated, advised Investigative

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Clerk [redacted] that they have an index card which reflects that Miss KATHERINE DUNHAM resides at 3638 South Parkway. This index card is dated July 10, 1937.

Personnel of the Chicago Police Department Bureau of Records and Communications, on January 31, 1967, advised Investigative Clerk [redacted] that they have no record identifiable with the appointee.

On February 1, 1967, [redacted] Joliet, Illinois, Police Department, advised SA [redacted] that she has no record of the appointee.

On February 1, 1967, [redacted] Credit Bureau of Will County, Joliet, Illinois, advised that she has no record of the appointee.

On February 1, 1967, SA [redacted] checked the records of the Will County Sheriff's Office, Joliet, Illinois, and was unable to locate any record identifiable with the appointee.

#### Miscellaneous

[redacted] in 1941, made available three telephone books which were used by the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and United Spanish Aid Office. Included in this list of names and telephone numbers was KATHERINE DUNHAM, WEB 7669.

The Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The United American Spanish Aid Committee has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

[redacted] in August, 1943, made available the names and addresses of persons directly or indirectly associated with

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Abraham Lincoln School. Listed was CATHERINE DUNHAM, Room 637, Sherman Hotel.

The Abraham Lincoln School has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

[redacted] advised in 1944, that school officials want to do something for KATHERINE DUNHAM, of "Tropical Review," and that they are thinking of having [redacted] "Esquire" magazine give a cocktail party for her under the auspices of the Abraham Lincoln School.

[redacted] advised on June 10, 1944, that [redacted] was requested to make available his home for a meeting at which KATHERINE DUNHAM will be the guest of honor on June 24, 1944, or June 24, 1944.

The Chicago Sun newspaper dated June 23, 1944, contains an article titled "Mrs. Dunham Cast To Aid Refugee Benefit," which reflects that dancers and drummers from KATHERINE DUNHAM's review will provide entertainment at a benefit party for the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee to be held at the [redacted]

The article further reflects that "the affair is a part of the committee's summer campaign to raise funds for a new refugee hospital in Mexico City.

The Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The Chicago Star newspaper dated February 28, 1949, contained a photograph of KATHERINE DUNHAM [redacted] with the following caption:

"The first two tickets to a rally for Henry A. Wallace at the Chicago Stadium Saturday evening, April 10 are purchased by Katherine Dunham, Star of Tropical Revue, and former Attorney General Robert W. Kenny, National Chairman of the Progressive Citizens of America from George R. Cermak, Chairman of the Progressive Party."

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Information concerning the Progressive Citizens of America and the Progressive Party is contained in the appendix section at the end of this report

The Chicago Tribune newspaper dated October 31, 1955, contained an article which reflects that KATHERINE DUNHAM was then appearing at the Great Northern Theater of Chicago. Costumes were designed by her husband [REDACTED]

The Chicago Tribune newspaper dated December 11, 1949, reflects that Doris Duke's ex-mate bought a nude painting by Katherine Dunham. Dateline Paris, December 10, reflects that, "Katherine Dunham, Negro dancing star and a former student at the University of Chicago, studying native dances in Haiti under a Rosenwald Fund Grant, has sold one of her paintings for \$400.00 [REDACTED] Dominican Diplomat formerly married to Doris Duke. It depicts a nude admiring herself in a mirror

The Chicago American newspaper dated October 26, 1938, contained an article captioned, "Negro Dancer To Open Series," which reflects that Katherine Dunham, born in Chicago, graduate of Joliet High School and attended the University of Chicago winning a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1936, resides at 3628 South Parkway. Her brother is Professor ALBERT DUNHAM, Jr., age 31, of the Sociology Department of Howard University, Washington, D. C. The article further reflects that she is currently working with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the University of Chicago for a federal writers project.

The Chicago Daily News, dated June 29, 1935, contained an article regarding scholarship awards and reflects a Chicago dancer, KATHERINE DUNHAM, is to start a tour of study in the West Indies this month by benefit of a Fellowship of the JULIUS ROSENWALD Fund. The article reflects that for the past three months she has been preparing for her expedition by studying under [REDACTED] of Northwestern University, an authority on anthropology of the Negro, particularly in Haiti, the West Indies, and the Guineas

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The article further reflected that in 1929 Miss DUNHAM was a member of the Masque-Cube Group of Little Theater Players appearing at the Cube Theater in Hyde Park, Illinois. The article further reflected that in December, 1929, she organized a group for the studying of the ballet [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] are not available for recontact.

Informants possessing some knowledge of Communist activities in the Chicago area prior to 1950, advised they have no knowledge of the appointee.

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APPENDIX

PROGRESSIVE CITIZENS OF AMERICA

Cited the Progressive Citizens of America as a "new and broader Communist front for the entire United States" formed in September, 1946, at the direction of "Communist steering committees" from the "Communist-dominated National Citizens Political Action Committee" and the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions.

(California Committee on Un-American Activities, Reports of 1947, page 369, and 148, page 354.)

PROGRESSIVE PARTY

"The Progressive Party, including its California branch, certainly ranks as one of the largest and most successful fronts ever created by the Communists."

(Committee on Un-American Activities, Annual Report for 1956, House Report 53, February 11, 1957, page 34.)

"Communist dissimulation extends into the field of political parties forming political front organizations such as the Progressive Party\*\*\* The communists are thus enabled to present their candidates for elective office under other than a straight communist label."

(Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Handbook for Americans, S. Doc 117, April 23, 1956, page 91.)

A source advised on May 14, 1956, that from all indications the Progressive Party of Illinois was no longer in existence inasmuch as there have been no recent meetings or campaign for funds held since early 1955.

APPENDIX



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Chicago, Illinois  
February 1, 1967

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Title                    KATHERINE DUNHAM

Character              SPECIAL INFORMATION

Reference              Report of Special Agent [redacted]  
                                 [redacted] dated and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

|   |                                   |  |   |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| REPORTING OFFICE<br><b>LOS ANGELES</b>  | OFFICE OF ORIGIN<br><b>BUREAU</b> | DATE<br><b>2/1/67</b>  | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD<br><b>1/24 - 1/31/67</b> |
| TITLE OF CASE<br><br><b>KATHERINE DUNHAM, aka<br/>Katherine Pratt<br/>Mrs. John Thomas Pratt<br/>Kay Dunn</b> |                                   | REPORT MADE BY<br><div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 20px;"></div> | TYPED BY<br><b>kfh</b>                        |
|   |                                   | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><br><b>SPI</b>  |   |

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REFERENCES: Bureau airtel to Los Angeles 1/23/67  
New York teletype to Bureau 1/27/67  
Bureau airtel to Los Angeles 1/26/67

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DATE 2/7/00 BY SP-4 bjt/cg

Case has been: Pending over one year ☐ Yes ☐ No; Pending prosecution over six months ☐ Yes ☐ No

|   |                            |   |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| APPROVED <b>WXXC</b>  | SPECIAL AGENT<br>IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW  |
| COPIES MADE:<br><br>① - Bureau (AIR MAIL)<br>1 - Los Angeles (161-1132) |                            | <div style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">161-4870-14</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> NOT RECORDED<br/>15 FEB 3 1967 </div> |
| Dissemination Record of Attached Report                                 |                            | Notations   |
| Agency  |                            | <div style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">Spec Ind.</div>  |
| Request Recd.   |                            |   |
| Date Fwd.   |                            |   |
| How Fwd.  |                            |   |
| By  |                            |   |

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

Report of:

Date:

February 1, 1967

Office: Los Angeles, California

Field Office File #:

161-1132

Bureau File #:

Title:

KATHERINE DUNHAM

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Character:

SPECIAL INQUIRY

## Synopsis:

No credit or arrest record located concerning the appointee. An associate of the appointee recommends. [redacted] who was a subject of an FBI investigation in 1944, along with CHARLES CHAPLIN and others in a violation of civil liberties (conspiracy) case, admitted to agents in 1944, that he was acquainted with and associated with the appointee. An acquaintance (now deceased) of [redacted] told FBI Agents in 1944 that

[redacted]

an intimate relationship in the early 1940's, although she cannot recall seeing any open display of such.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/7/00 BY [signature]

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DETAILS:

This investigation was conducted as follows:

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| SA [REDACTED]<br>[REDACTED] | Interview of [REDACTED]<br>at Los Angeles, California  |
| SA [REDACTED]<br>[REDACTED] | Santa Monica, California   |
| SA [REDACTED]<br>[REDACTED] | Beverly Hills, Santa Monica,<br>and Los Angeles, California  |
| IC [REDACTED]<br>[REDACTED] | Retail Merchants Credit<br>Association<br>Los Angeles, California  |
| IC [REDACTED]<br>[REDACTED] | Los Angeles Police Department<br>and Los Angeles County<br>Sheriff's Office<br>Los Angeles, California                 |
| SE [REDACTED]<br>[REDACTED] | Newspaper libraries of the<br>"Los Angeles Times" and the<br>"Los Angeles Herald Examiner",<br>Los Angeles, California |

ASSOCIATE

On January 31, 1967, [REDACTED]  
Popular Division, Hurok Attractions Inc., West Coast,  
8255 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, advised  
she has been acquainted with KATHERINE DUNHAM since 1941  
or 1942. She said she considers DUNHAM to be one of her  
best friends. [REDACTED] said she originally met DUNHAM in  
Los Angeles, California, on a social basis. [REDACTED] said  
that from about 1944 to 1947, she traveled with DUNHAM

[REDACTED]  
for DUNHAM'S touring dance troupe. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] which

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DUNHAM presented in 1962 in New York City, New York. [ ] said she also worked for DUNHAM for a short period of time in the mid 1940's at the Katherine Dunham School of Cultural Arts in New York City. [ ] said she has had no contact with DUNHAM for the past two and one-half years and has no knowledge of DUNHAM'S current activities.

[ ] said she is acquainted with DUNHAM'S husband, [ ] and considers him to be a very thoughtful and respectable person. [ ] said that DUNHAM'S husband traveled with DUNHAM'S dance troupe prior to their marriage and was employed as DUNHAM'S designer.

[ ] said she has always admired DUNHAM as a person and as an artist. [ ] said DUNHAM'S [ ]

DUNHAM adopted this daughter many years ago in France. She said DUNHAM'S daughter's true mother was a French woman and the father was an American Negro soldier.

[ ] commented very favorably concerning DUNHAM'S character, associates, reputation, and loyalty. She said that on many occasion while touring in foreign countries, DUNHAM has had opportunities to criticize the treatment of the Negro in American society, but she has always refused to do so and has always pointed out the opportunities available to minority groups and individuals in America. [ ] said that DUNHAM has always associated with "theater" and "art" type people as well as people of fairly high social standing. [ ] said she knew of no organizations to which DUNHAM belongs, other than possible membership in theater organizations.

[ ] said from her knowledge of DUNHAM, she would highly recommend DUNHAM for a high position of trust with the United States Government.

[ ] said she recalls that in the early 1940's, DUNHAM associated with [ ] who at that time was a producer at United Artists Studios. [ ] was a great admirer of DUNHAM as a dancer and had some plans to produce a motion picture

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using DUNHAM in a major acting role. She said this picture was never produced. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DUNHAM and she believed that DUNHAM [REDACTED] possibly attended some parties and dinners together. [REDACTED] said she believed [REDACTED] might have been exploiting his friendship with DUNHAM because at that time DUNHAM was a famous dancer, while [REDACTED] was comparatively unknown. She said some rumors and gossip were possibly developed concerning DUNHAM'S and [REDACTED] association due to DUNHAM'S race. [REDACTED] said, however, she could recall nothing significant or unusual about the relationship between DUNHAM and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] said she always considered DUNHAM to have high moral character.

#### CREDIT AND ARREST

On January 27, 1967, records of the following credit bureau and law enforcement agencies were caused to be searched concerning the appointee, KATHERINE DUNHAM, also known as Katherine Pratt, Mrs. John Thomas Pratt, and Kay Dunn, with negative results:

Retail Merchants Credit Association  
Los Angeles, California

Los Angeles Police Department  
Los Angeles, California

Los Angeles County Sheriff's  
Office  
Los Angeles, California

#### MISCELLANEOUS

On January 26, 1967, records of the "Los Angeles Herald Examiner" and "Los Angeles Times" newspaper libraries were caused to be searched concerning the appointee, KATHERINE DUNHAM, also known as Katherine Pratt, Mrs. John Thomas Pratt, and Kay Dunn. An article

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concerning DUNHAM appeared in the "Los Angeles Times" May 7, 1950 edition in which DUNHAM denied any romantic relationship between her and [REDACTED] DUNHAM described this matter as ridiculous and stated "I do hope that the case of Dunham [REDACTED] is herewith forever closed".

Another article appeared in the "Los Angeles Times" March 27, 1960 edition, which was a commentary by FRANCES RING on DUNHAM'S book entitled "A Touch of Innocence". This commentary was a short synopsis concerning DUNHAM'S book which dealt with her early life. The commentary was highly complimentary.

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An article appeared in the "Los Angeles Times" October 31, 1941 edition which was highly complimentary of DUNHAM and her dancing troupe's three night engagement at the Biltmore Theater in Los Angeles, California.

The "Los Angeles Herald Examiner" carried essentially the same articles described above.

DUNHAM shows that she appeared with the Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra in 1945.

On January 26, 1967, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Music Commission, Los Angeles Music Center, Los Angeles, California, advised she could locate no record concerning KATHERINE DUNHAM having ever appeared with the Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra. She said this would indicate that DUNHAM possibly made a guest appearance with that orchestra. She said the only person remaining with the Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra who might possibly recall DUNHAM, is the present [REDACTED]

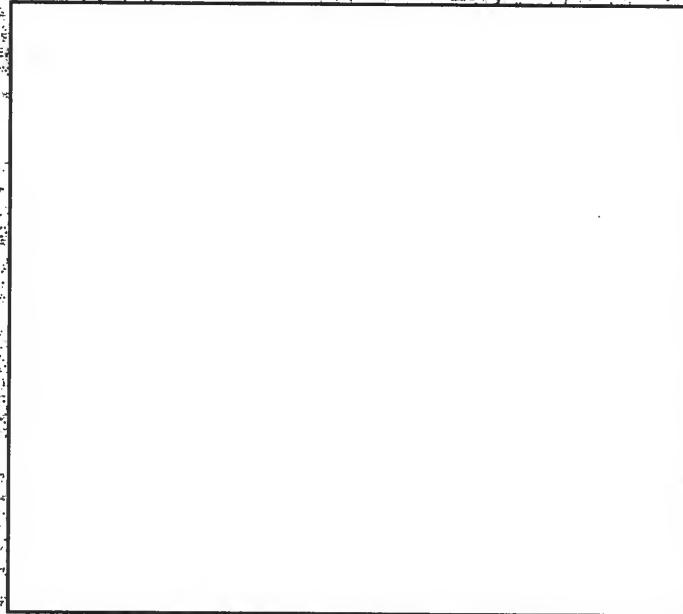
On January 26, 1967, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles, California, advised he was not associated with that orchestra during the time KATHERINE DUNHAM reportedly

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appeared with the orchestra. [redacted] however, located an old publicity poster which reflects KATHERINE DUNHAM appeared with her entire troupe at the Hollywood Bowl on July 28 and July 29, 1944. [redacted] could locate no one presently with the orchestra who recalled DUNHAM.

In 1944, the FBI conducted an investigation concerning the case entitled:

"CHARLES SPENCER CHAPLIN;



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VIOLATION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES;  
VIOLATION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES  
(CONSPIRACY)"

On May 15, 1944, United States Attorney CHARLES H. CARR, Los Angeles, California, appeared before Federal Judge J. F. T. O'CONNOR and recommended dismissal of the indictments against CHAPLIN, [redacted]. At that time CARR stated in open court that he had received written instructions from the Department of Justice in Washington, D. C., requesting him to take such steps. Judge O'CONNOR then dismissed the indictments.

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] He said he met CHARLES CHAPLIN through a producer at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios in about 1939. [REDACTED] said about a year later CHAPLIN offered him a job which he took [REDACTED]. He said he worked for CHAPLIN for about eight months.

[REDACTED] made a point to explain his financial standing, prefacing it with the statement that he had been accused of having been kept by CHARLES CHAPLIN and also had been accused of being a procurer by CHAPLIN. [REDACTED] said that neither of these statements were true and explained that from his rental income on his home [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] he received \$15,000.00 a year. This home at that time was being rented by actress GRETA GARBO.

During the course of this interview, [REDACTED] was confronted with the fact that it had been learned that he had been closely associated with KATHERINE DUNHAM, the Negro dancer. [REDACTED] said he would be very glad to tell of his association with KATHERINE DUNHAM.

[REDACTED] said he first met DUNHAM at a night club where she was performing in about April, 1943. He said he had never known DUNHAM before that time. [REDACTED] said after talking to DUNHAM, he became a great admirer of hers and had a tremendous amount of respect for her as an artist. [REDACTED] said he developed a great affection toward DUNHAM. [REDACTED] said he tried to get DUNHAM into a picture at United Artists Studios and United Artists Studios was interested for a time, but finally turned the offer down.

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[ ] said that later on, DUNHAM called him from San Francisco, California, advising him that she was coming to Los Angeles, California, and asked him if he would find her a place to stay. [ ] said that DUNHAM did not know any place to stay in Los Angeles, and being a Negro, would naturally have a hard time finding a good place to stay at that time. [ ] said he asked DUNHAM if she wanted to stay with him. [ ] said DUNHAM accepted the offer, came to Los Angeles, and stayed at his house. [ ] said he still only knew DUNHAM at this time in a business capacity, but got to know her better during her stay at his house. [ ] said his daughter was at his house during the time DUNHAM stayed there. He said he gave a party for DUNHAM and they spent some time discussing the possibility of doing a musical comedy show that fall in New York City, New York.

[ ] said DUNHAM did go to New York City and became a terrific hit. He said he went to New York City a couple of times to see DUNHAM for both personal and business reasons. [ ] said he was interested in DUNHAM for several reason.. He said that one reason was because he had become very conscious and very much interested in the Negro as a person and as an representative of a minority group. He said he felt by projecting DUNHAM in the performing arts business, he might in some way help relieve the tension of the race riots and the racial misunderstandings. [ ] said he had a very great and deep affection for DUNHAM and she is a very high class girl. He said as far as marriage was concerned, this had never been discussed. [ ] said he never introduced DUNHAM as his wife like he said some people said he had done. [ ] said he was sorry DUNHAM was not white. He said theirs was an untenable situation and she knew it as well as he.

[ ] said that DUNHAM has a husband [ ] who has been married to her for about five years. He said that DUNHAM'S husband [ ] He said that DUNHAM'S husband [ ]

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[ ] said DUNHAM has a great capacity to give a person perspective that is very broadening and very important. [ ] said he had been involved with DUNHAM from the point of view of affection and that he freely admitted this. [ ] said DUNHAM is a great business asset and he hoped to exploit her talents and make some money from it, although he is suffering a great social ostracism because of this. To clarify this statement, [ ] was asked if he meant he had been intimate with DUNHAM; was in love with her, and did not care who knew about it. [ ] then explained, "To this extent - I don't think it is fair to ask me if I have been intimate with her. You can understand that from her point of view too. When I say I don't care who knows it, I don't want to invite trouble. I am not going to appear with her in public and take this terrific publicity, because I mean I have to make a living. I have my daughter. Most people don't understand. I mean, after all, it is a question of taste, and it is an acquired taste. It is a very strange thing for me - I mean coming from this background to feel the way I do. It's not a great exotic sexual attraction the way many people try to say. It's not without its feeling, but, it's not primarily that. It's deeper than that, and when I say I don't care who knows it, I'm not anxious to have everyone know it".

During the course of this investigation, CECIL COAN (now deceased), who was then a secretary at the United Artists Studios, Hollywood, California, was interviewed.

Among other things, COAN advised he was first employed at United Artists Studios [ ] He said that [ ] was added to the United Artists Studios staff as an associate producer at the request of CHARLES CHAPLIN. He said [ ] hired him as a secretary. COAN said that [ ] was very much in

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love with KATHERINE DUNHAM. COAN cited several instances of how he had to cover up for [ ] in order to keep another girl friend of [ ] from learning of his association with DUNHAM. COAN said that DUNHAM stayed with [ ] at his ranch during the summer of 1943. COAN said that [ ] who [ ] at that time told him, COAN, of the goings-on between [ ] DUNHAM. COAN said that with profane words, [ ] told COAN of sexual intercourse between her father and DUNHAM which went on there in the house.

COAN said [ ] servants told him of their overhearing a telephone conversation between [ ] and DUNHAM, who was in New York City, New York, in which [ ] was angry at DUNHAM and requested her to return his mother's engagement ring which he had given her.

COAN said that he understands that DUNHAM was due back in Los Angeles, California, in April 1944, where she is to play a series of engagements with her colored troupe. COAN said that [ ] was trying to find a house for DUNHAM to live in. COAN said he understood that [ ] met DUNHAM in New York City after one of her engagements and the two of them went from there to the [ ] family cabin on Lake Waugewan near Meredith, New Hampshire. He said this is the area in which [ ] grew up. He said he understood that [ ] and DUNHAM spent several days together at this cabin. COAN said he had personally made reservations for two for [ ] at this particular time from New York City to Boston, Massachusetts, and from Boston to Meredith, New Hampshire. He said that after [ ] excursion to Lake Waugewan that [ ] spent about a month in New York City during which time DUNHAM played several engagements in that city. COAN said that [ ] had absolutely no regard whatsoever for his child, [ ]. COAN said that [ ] was continually chasing women and spent most of his time satisfying his sexual craving.

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On January 31, 1967, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] "Daily Variety" newspaper, an entertainment trade  
publication, Hollywood, California, advised that CECIL  
COAN, above described, died on January 17, 1967.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date January 31, 1967

[redacted] was interviewed on January 31, 1967. [redacted] advised she did not desire to furnish this information in the form of a signed statement; however, she would be willing to appear before a hearing committee in the event her testimony was needed.

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[redacted] advised that she is the former [redacted] [redacted] said she does not recall a great deal concerning the association between [redacted] KATHERINE DUNHAM [redacted] She said she does remember [redacted] KATHERINE DUNHAM were quite closely associated during the early 1940's and described their association as "girl friend and boy friend". [redacted] said this situation caused her a great deal of embarrassment, possibly due to the fact that American society was not quite as intergrated racially at that particular time as it is now. She said she recalls that DUNHAM spent a great deal of time at [redacted] home, but she could not definitely say whether or not DUNHAM stayed overnight as she was personally in another section of the home. [redacted] said she suspected [redacted] DUNHAM of having a very intimate relationship, although she cannot recall having seen any actual display of such.

[redacted] said that to the best of her recollection, [redacted] DUNHAM carried on their relationship for a little over a year. She said, however, after this time [redacted] DUNHAM maintained contact both personally and through written correspondence. She said she has not heard [redacted] mention DUNHAM for the past several years. [redacted] said, although DUNHAM [redacted] caused her a great deal of embarrassment, she recalls DUNHAM as being a very likeable person.

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On 1/31/67 at Santa Monica, California File # Los Angeles 161-1132

by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] :kfh Date dictated 1/31/67

LA 161-1132

[redacted] said she does not feel she recalls DUNHAM well enough to make any type of recommendation concerning DUNHAM'S character, associates, reputation, or loyalty, or to make any type of recommendation for a position of trust.

b6  
b7C  
b7D



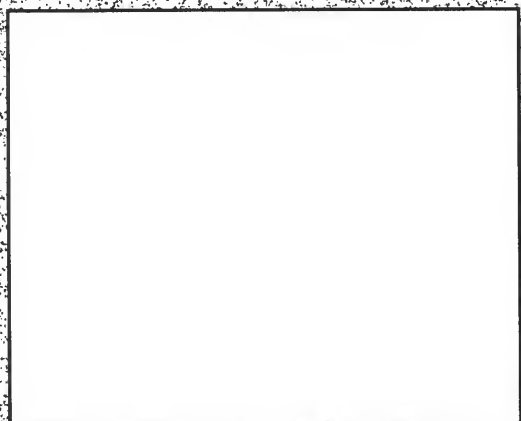
b2  
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NY 161-2271

INFORMANTS:

Identity of Source

File Number Where Located

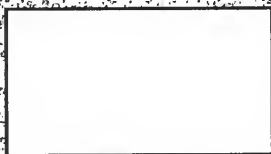


100-3422-2628

100-80675-162

100-115741

Other confidential informants referred to in the body of this report are identified as follows:



- B\* -  
COVER PAGE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of:

[REDACTED]

Office: New York, New York

Date:

2/1/67

Field Office File #:

161-2271

Bureau File #:

b6

b7C

Title:

KATHERINE DUNHAM

Character:

SPECIAL INQUIRY

Synopsis:

Associates interviewed and recommend. Information regarding KATHERINE DUNHAM and Dunham School set forth. Neighborhoods set forth. No credit, arrest or BSS record located for appointee or family. CIs negative.

- RUC -

DECLASSIFIED BY SP4bjt/teg  
ON 3/7/00

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

b6  
b7C  
b7D

NY 161-2271

DETAILS:

Employment

Dunham School  
440 West 42nd Street  
New York, New York

On January 25, 1967, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

the Dunham School, New York City. She explained that the Dunham Dance Company was composed of students who either attended or are presently attending the Dunham School, who demonstrated sufficient skill and proficiency that they were invited by Miss KATHERINE DUNHAM to represent their school on world tours. She stated that the Dunham School was initially opened in New York City, during 1944 when it was a school of dancing, located at 280 West 43rd Street, New York, New York. She advised the school expanded in 1952 into the Katherine Dunham School of Cultural Arts, which was an expansion of the curriculum to add social sciences and humanities. The school functioned thus until 1957 with no subsidies and a minimum of donations. She stated the program proved too extended for private enterprise and personal earnings of Miss DUNHAM could no longer underwrite the cost of the school on such a scale. From 1957 to 1962, she advised, the training in "Dunham Technique" of dancing was confined to the performing company with limited apprentices and master classes wherever stationed. She advised that these classes were held in Mexico, Australia; New Zealand, the Near and Far East, and Europe as well as in the United States.

[REDACTED] stated that during November, 1962, the Dunham School became organized in New York City and has developed from that point to the present school which is so well regarded for its teaching of the "Dunham Technique". [REDACTED] stated that the appointee was born in Chicago, Illinois on June 22, 1909, and to the best of her knowledge, the appointee's parents